(c) and (d) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the matter of entry of Co-operative Banks into insurance business is being examined by them in consultation with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Collection from public issue by banks

3158. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the less public issue collections by public sector banks during 1999-2000 than the private banks;

(a) if so, the number of public issues floated during 1999-2000 and how much money was collected therefrom by the public sector banks and private banks, separately; and

(b) the reasons for swing in favour of private banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strategy to tackle weak banks

3159. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitcm captioned "Action plan to pep up weak banks by August" as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 14th July, 2000;

(b) it so, whether Government have decided to adopt four pronged strategy to tackle weak banks;

(c) if so, the details of the four pronged strategy and how its effective implementation would be done; and

(d) the extent to which the weak public sector banks are likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The three identified weak public sector banks have drawn up comprehensive restructuring plans covering operational,

organizational, financial and systemic restructuring. The proposed restructuring plans, include *inter alia*, improvement in operating income through significant recovery of NPAs, reduction of costs by rationalizing organizational/administrative structure/branches, mobilization of low cost deposits, reduction of staff cost and generally keeping all operating expenses under control. The implementation of these measures is expected to improve the viability of the weak banks on a sustainable basis.

Insurance schemes launched by GIC

3160. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(d) whether the General Insurance Corporation of India has launched two new insurance schemes viz. Bhagyashree Child Welfare Policy and Rajrajeshwari Mahila Kalyan Bima Yojana in pursuance of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the Independence Day in 1998;

(e) if so, what is the present status of both these schemes; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure optimum coverage specially of people below poverty line under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both the Schemes are extending the benefit of insurance coverage to womenfolk particularly from the weaker section of the society. The number of girl children and women covered under Bhagyashree Child Welfare Policy and Rajrajeshwari Mahila Kalyan Bima Yojana since their inception, upto July, 2000 is 4,15,034 and 40,03,740 respectively.

(c) The GIC has reported that tailor made and group policies for special target groups have been devised to cover the womenfolk particularly belonging to 'below poverty line' families. The companies are publishing these schemes through publicity vans, posters, pamphlets and handbills in vernacular languages and participation in village melas from time to time.